

Community United Methodist Church of Kenilworth  
455 Boulevard, Kenilworth, New Jersey 07033  
Church phone: 908-276-1956  
Pastor Roeline Ramirez 973-282-6237  
Rev. Heme Ares, Pastor Emeritus  
Pastor Don Knott, Retired Elder  
Rev. Dr. Baktha Kumar, Counseling Pastor



**The Circuit Rider**  
March 2024 Newsletter  
**Community United Methodist Church of Kenilworth**  
*A Faith Community Ignited by God's Love*

**MARCH 2024 EVENTS**

**SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES, 10:30 a.m.**

Pastor Don's Bible Study on Facebook Live, Fridays at 9:00 a.m.

Treasure Shop open Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

40 Days Prayer Challenge, 6:00 p.m. via zoom Monday thru Saturday up to March 27<sup>th</sup>

ESL Class Mondays at 6:30 p.m.

Adult and Youth Sunday School after Sunday worship

March 3, 2024 "Love Talks," a discussion about Godly relationships, 3:00 p.m.

March 10, 2024 Board of Trustees Meeting after worship

March 13, 2024 UMW Fellowship, 11:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall

March 21, 2024 Community Care Food Pantry, 4:00 p.m. at Fellowship Hall

March 24, 2024 Palm Sunday, 10:30 a.m.

March 28, 2024 Maundy Thursday Service, 6:30 p.m.

March 28, 2024 Circuit Rider, 11:00 a.m. at Fellowship Hall

March 29, 2024 Good Friday, Seven Last Words Service, 12:00 p.m.

March 31, 2024 "Free Breakfast" at 8:00 a.m., Easter Sunday Service, 10:30 a.m.;

Easter Egg Hunt after worship

# Pastor's Page

*"But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."  
(Romans 5:8 ESV)*

**My Beloved Church Family and Friends,**

February was a month of love and ashes that will continue until March. I remember it was the 14th of February when we did the imposition of ashes. It was a freezing and windy day when I put a table out with a purple tablecloth and a golden cross. I thought no one would come out because of the weather, but people came. It was a lovely and meaningful experience, telling people the meaning of ashes and to hope for eternal life through believing in Christ Jesus.

Ashes is more than a reminder that we came from dust and to dust we will return. It reminded us that we are all sinners, but because of God's great love, we are forgiven through Christ Jesus. Wow, to God's love for us, even though we were still sinners.

I pray that as we journey to the season of Lent to Easter, we will be reminded of God's love nailed on the cross, died, buried, and resurrected to give us hope. Let us find time to reflect:

How is it with your soul? How is your relationship with God?  
How is your relationship with people? What are you willing to do to give more time to know God, who loves us so much?

Let us find time to pray:  
What is in your heart? What would you like to say to God?  
What are the things you cry for?  
What are the things you are thankful for?  
Will you find time to be silent and listen to God's voice?

Remember, we might be returning to dust, but in Jesus, we are bound to have eternal life with God because of God's great love.

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Roeline "Wee" Ramirez



## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 4 Elaine Puma
- 6 Alec Diaz
- 6 Luz Agudelo
- 7 Chase Robert Caffrey
- 7 Janie Delos Reyes Tran
- 8 Kier Lim
- 11 Cindy Perro
- 12 Marilyn Pagan
- 24 Sandra Trapani
- 15 Rose Duelly
- 15 Amara Giop Ramirez / Ellen Jeremias
- 17 Andrea Zevallos-Valles
- 19 Guy Anthony Francis
- 22 Mathew Forti



*"Life is a gift, and you're unwrapping it with joy today. Have an amazing birthday."*

## MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

- 15 Ernie and Ching Salvador
- 19 Edgar and Margaret Nunez



*"Congratulations on another year together. May your love continue to grow. Happy anniversary."*

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## GET SOMEBODY ELSE

Author Unknown

The Lord, He had a job for me,  
But I had so much to do,  
I said: "You get somebody else,  
Or wait till I get though."

I don't know how the Lord came out,  
But He seemed to get along,  
But I felt kinda sneakin' like  
Cause I know I'd done him wrong.

One day I needed the Lord myself,  
Needed Him right away,  
And He never answered me at all,  
But I could hear him say:

Down in my accusin' heart –  
"I've got too much to do;  
You get somebody else,  
Or wait till I get through."

Now, when the Lord has a job for me,  
I never try to shirk,  
I drop what I have on hand,  
And do the good Lord's work.  
And my affairs can run along,  
Or wait till I get through,  
Nobody else can do the job,  
The Lord's marked out for YOU.

From Old Paths Tract Society, Inc.

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## MARCH QUOTES

1. "March, when days are getting long. Let thy growing hours be strong to set right some wintry wrong." ~Caroline May
2. "March bustles in on windy feet and sweeps my doorstep and my street." ~Susan Reiner
3. "It was one of those March days when the sun shines hot and the wind blows cold: when it is summer in the light, and winter in the shade." ~Charles Dickens
4. "March is a tomboy with tousled hair, a mischievous smile, mud on her shoes, and a laugh in her voice." ~Hal Borland
5. "Spring is nature's way of saying, 'Let's party!'" ~Robin Williams

## NATIONAL FRIENDS WEEK

Submitted by Jane Reilly

March 18<sup>th</sup> will be the first day of National Friends Week. The following sayings were written by Andy Rooney, a man who had the gift of saying so much with so few words. He has since passed away, but used to be on CBS's 60 Minutes TV show.

I've learned...  
that the best classroom in the world is at the feet of an elderly person.

I've learned...  
that when you're in love, it shows.

I've learned...  
that just one person saying to me, 'You've made my day!' makes my day.

I've learned...  
that having a child fall asleep in your arms is one of the most peaceful feelings in the world.

I've learned...  
that being kind is more important than being right.

I've learned...  
that you should never say no to a gift from a child.

I've learned...  
that I can always pray for someone when I don't have the strength to help him in any other way.

I've learned...  
that no matter how serious your life requires you to be, everyone needs a friend to act goofy with.

I've learned...  
that sometimes all a person needs is a hand to hold and a heart to understand.

I've learned...  
that simple walks with my father around the block on summer nights when I was a child did wonders for me as an adult.

## ST. PATRICK DAY HUMOR

Submitted by Barbara Levine

1. How did the Irish jig get started?  
*Too much to drink and not enough restrooms.*

2. How can you tell if an Irishman is having a good time?  
*He's 'Dublin' over with laughter.*

3. What's Irish and stays out all night?  
*Patty O'Furniture.*

4. Why can't you borrow money from a leprechaun?  
*Because they're always a little short.*

5. Why do people wear shamrocks on St. Patrick's Day?  
*Real rocks are too heavy.*

6. What do you get when you cross poison ivy with a four-leaf clover?  
*A rash of good luck*



7. Knock, Knock —  
*Who's there?*  
Irish.  
*Irish who?*

I-rish you a Happy St. Patrick's Day.

8. Here's wishing you the top o'life  
Without a single tumble;  
Here's wishing you the smiles o'life  
And not a single grumble.

9. Here's wishing you the best o'life  
And not a claw about it;  
Here's wishing you the joy in life  
And not a day without it.

10. St. Patrick's Day hint: Never iron a 4-leaf clover. After all, you never want to 'press' your luck.

**May the luck and laughter of the Irish  
always be yours. Happy St. Patrick's Day!**

# PRAYER REQUESTS

**For Blessing, Guidance, Protection, Comfort, & Healing:** Victims of wars and calamities, Soyoun, Brenda G., Jr Nonan, Johnston Family, Zoe Holkar, Manuel F., Franklin Tuit, Beverly A's Brother, Mary Oels, Mary Ellen and Dee K's Family, Elaine Puma and her husband, Margaret (friend of Doris), Pastor Don and Elba, Charles - brother of Mel F., Janet Crowe, Evelyn S., Betsy DC and her parents, Bob and Karen, A. Restrepo Fam, Fuquay Fam, Opacity Fam, Nunez Fam, Silva Fam,, Richard Fisher, Yen & Will, Viuya Fam, Janielle & Gerald, Adrian M, Al Bowman., Blanco Fam, Cenizal Fam., Robin T. Jane R., Ms. Toni, Kathleen, Levine fam, Janet H. and Mom Grace, Drew & Gracielle Restrepo., Mary Rogers., Faith S., Mr. Tony S & Fam, Caffrey fam, Ptr Heme Ares and Fam, Rachel A., Sharon, Dustin, Leonardo, Carmelita, Dale S., Luz, Luisa, Lucianna, Wilson Fam, Francis Fam, Vallez Fam, Jeremias Fam, Freda Fam, Crissi and Johnston Fam, Cindy P., Vercillie F., Phil L., Strubble and Koenig Fam., Stephanie P., Pagan Fam., Kollory Fam., Abigail., Rich Woods., Duely Fam., Ramirez Fam., Salvador Fam.,

**FOR CHURCH GROWTH:** Ignite UMC Council Officers and Leaders

**FOR PROTECTION AND WISDOM:** GNJ Annual Conference staff, pastors, deacons, leaders, Kenilworth Mayor Linda and Council members, Men & women in service. Government officers and staff.



For your prayer concerns and pastoral care, please contact Pastor Roeline.  
Text or call at 973-282-6237  
email: [ramirezroeline@gmail.com](mailto:ramirezroeline@gmail.com) [igniteumckenilworth@gmail.com](mailto:igniteumckenilworth@gmail.com)

## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The United Methodist Women met on February 21<sup>st</sup>; the program was about Eleanor Roosevelt. The discussion about various agenda items was lively, and much was accomplished. While Janet provided desert, Ellen, Pastor's mom, provided a delicious pasta dish for lunch. Thank you so much, Ellen. We all really enjoyed it.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, March 13, 2024. Lunch and fellowship will follow a short business meeting. Our hostesses will be Pastor Roe and her mom, Ellen. All women are welcome to join us. Zoom will be available for those who are unable to attend in person.

## COMMUNITY CARE FOOD PANTRY

The Food Pantry served 15 families from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 15<sup>th</sup>, providing food and non-food items and giving out six Pet Smart Gift Cards.

The next distribution date will be on Mar. 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024 In addition to the above, clients will also be given an Acme gift card to supplement the Easter meals. Any donations to any of these (food and non-food items, and donations toward Acme and Pet Smart gift cards) would be greatly appreciated. We thank you, in advance for your generous support of these ministries. Without your support, we couldn't continue to support those in need.

## THE TREASURE SHOP

After closing on Saturday, January 20<sup>th</sup> due to bad weather, the Treasure Shop is again open on Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

We welcome all who come to shop and/or to donate items. We look forward to seeing you.

## A QUOTE FROM ST. THERESE

She said: "May today there be peace within. May you trust that you are exactly where you are meant to be. May you not forget the infinite possibilities that are born of faith in yourself and others. May you use the gifts that you have received, and pass on the love that has been given to you. May you be content with yourself just the way are. Let this knowledge settle into your bones, and allow your soul the freedom to sing, dance, praise, and love. It is there for each and every one of us."

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It's hard to be  
on top of the world  
when you're carrying it  
on your shoulders.  
Let go and live.

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BE AN  
*Encourager.*  
THE WORLD HAS PLENTY OF  
CRITICS ALREADY."  
Good Morning

From Diana (@brain\_lupus)

## THE KINDNESS POEM Written by Carly Dugmore

It doesn't matter where you go,  
Or who you meet along the way.  
Carry kindness in your heart,  
And practice it each day.

A simple smile can change the course  
Of someone else's week,  
The smallest gesture represents,  
The gift of joy we seek.

A gentle touch reminds us,  
That humanity still reigns.  
To pet a lonely cat or dog  
Shows that love will never wane.

There are a million obstacles  
On any given day,  
But rise above the hate and fear  
And live life the kindness way.

From Ramblings of the Claury

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Each day we RISE to OPPORTUNITY!  
Each CHOICE we make is a STATEMENT!  
Each ACTION we take is a reflection of a  
deeper belief.

Realize that YOU are GREATER than any  
circumstance in your life! You have within  
you all that you need to LIVE, LOVE,  
LAUGH, LEARN, LET GO, and  
CELEBRATE!

Focus on what YOU CAN DO, not can't.  
Focus on WHAT YOU HAVE, not don't.  
LIVE like YOU MEAN IT!  
But most importantly... LIVE BY EXAMPLE!

From.LeeAnneLocken.com

## ST. PATRICK'S DAY

By Walter Sosnosky

The Irish people have endured such pain and tragedy over the centuries from their English oppressors who nearly starved them to death. During the potato famine many Irish died who had to resort to eating grass to survive.

The Irish indentured servant worked side by side with the African slaves. They toiled until death. Some of you who may not be aware of what an indentured servant is, an indentured servant signs a contract to work for his sponsor until the debt is paid. Many of these Irish indentured servants were sold without their permission and many of them died before they satisfied their commitment.

During the 1800's through the 1900's, the Irish worked their way into the main stream but there was still prejudice that existed. Many local politicians used Irish immigrants to help them get elected. To reward these Irish immigrants who could not read or write, they were appointed police officers. Through the years in law enforcement the Irish became the focal point and the benchmark for law enforcement throughout our country. Irish Americans filled so many facets of the American life it is too numerous to mention and one of Ireland's favorite sons is John Fitzgerald Kennedy who was the first Catholic President.

So on this St. Patrick's Day we say we are all Irish because being Irish is a proud thing to be.

To all the Irish Americans, thank you for this joyous holiday.

## SPRING

*To all my Facebook friends,*

*The following post may seem to be much too soon, but I thought it might brighten your spirits and cast off some of this weather's gloom.*

As we cowl from the winter's cutting wind  
We think of spring and a smile begins and  
turns into a grin.

The days get longer as daylight savings time  
begins.

We step out to daily tasks,  
We see the signs of spring at last.

The crocus and tulips in color grand,  
Punctuate the ground on which we stand.

The robins and finches let us know  
That they are home by cackling to each as  
they say hello.

The scent of spring will soon arrive, cherry  
blossoms, lilacs, and roses, too,  
Trumpeting the beginning of new birth and  
life anew.

The mighty oak and maple tree begin to fill  
with leaves of green.  
A safe place for larks and blue jays to nest and  
feed their new families.  
Our furry friends appear, chipmunks, squirrels,  
and others, too, even the skunk we do  
include. Phew!

We may not think it but it's true, we are a part  
of nature, too. So embrace this season we call  
spring and everything that it means.

Peace, Love and Joy,  
Written by Walter Sosnosky

## WITH AGE I REALIZE...

(Some thoughts about getting older)

1. I talk to myself. Sometimes I need an expert's advice.
2. Sometimes I roll my eyes out loud.
3. I don't need anger management. I need other people to stop annoying me.
4. The biggest lie I tell myself is, "Oh, you'll remember."
5. Nap time is not a punishment. It's a reward.
6. The day the world runs out of wine is too terrible to even think about.
7. Wouldn't it be great if we could put ourselves in the dryer and come out wrinkle-free and three sizes smaller?
8. "Getting lucky" actually means walking into a room and remembering why I came in.

~Submitted by Toni Sosnosky

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## MORE THOUGHTS FOR YOU

1. To live your life, you need three bones: a wishbone, a backbone, and a funny bone.
2. By the time you're 80 years old, you learned everything. You just have to remember it all.

~Submitted by Almeta Morris

## IT'S ABOUT TIME

Albert Einstein's hypothesis is that dividing lines between the past, present, and future is an illusion.

A truism about time. We make the most out of our time when we have the least amount of time. Now to the essence of my article, "It's About Time."

This is what we treasure most but cannot possess it, for you see, time is man's creation. It does not exist outside earthly boundaries, yet this four letter word controls our lives. It is time to eat, it is time to sleep, I need more time, and lastly, my time is up.

We base our status and value on the speed of our cars, the internet, even the speed of the food we buy trying in vain to save time as if we could stockpile it; we cannot. Time is not empirical.

For example, you are attending your friend's wedding, you're laughing, dancing, and all of a sudden the host thanks you for coming and have a safe trip home. You look at your watch; the three hours have gone by.

Second example, a dental appointment for a cleaning seems to last forever. You may wonder why I yield this observation.

It is so we can slow down and appreciate the wonder of life that surrounds us. Our family, friends, a summer day, the aroma of fresh-baked apple pie.

Written by Walter Sosnosky

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"Take time to smell the roses."

~Bernard Kelvin Clive



# A Glimpse of FEBRUARY 2024



Testimony Time



Couples – Reading the Scripture



Prayer and Blessings for the Married Couples



Young Disciples' Time



IGNITE UMC Resurrection Choir



Hymnals and Bibles donated to Kingsway Philippines International



Women's once a month Fellowship



## EASTER TRIVIA QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT THE HOPPY HOLIDAY

- Households each spend how much on average on Easter annually?  
\$192.01 (2022/2023 average)
- In what country did the tradition of the Easter bunny originate?  
Germany
- The original Easter bunny in Germany was actually what sort of animal?  
A hare
- Easter Island is part of which country?  
Chile
- When was the first White House Easter Egg Roll?  
1878
- Which presidential administration hosted the first White House Easter Egg Roll?  
Rutherford B. Hayes
- Where is the largest Easter egg museum in the world?  
Poland (The Museum Rolnictwa w Chievanowcu; it contains more than 2,500 eggs)
- What's the most popular Easter candy in America?  
Marshmallow peeps
- When was Cadbury founded?  
1824
- When were Cadbury Creme eggs introduced?  
1963
- In the Bible, how many days passed between Jesus' death and resurrection? Three
- The Sunday before Easter is called what?  
Palm Sunday
- What is the 40-day period before Easter?  
Lent
- When Easter eggs were first dyed, it was to represent what?  
The blood of Jesus
- How many states consider Good Friday a holiday?  
12
- Buying what for Easter is said to bring good luck for the rest of the year?  
New clothes
- Who wrote "Easter Parade?"  
Irving Berlin
- What garment was popularized by the song, "Easter Parade?"  
Easter Bonnets
- Dying Easter eggs is a tradition that began in what country?  
Ukraine
- What president was the first to introduce an Easter bunny to the White House Easter Egg roll?  
President Richard Nixon
- Before 1953, it took how many hours to produce a single marshmallow Peep?  
27 hours
- How many Peeps do Americans eat during each Easter season?  
600 million

## A GREAT AND MIGHTY GOD

By Frances Culp Wolfe,  
From Circle of Love

I have a great and mighty God,  
Who is abiding in my heart.  
He directs my life every day,  
He has done so from the start.  
From the very moment I met Him,  
So much joy I have deep inside.  
I know I can always count on Him,  
To be my constant Guide.  
All things my God has created,  
Showing forth His mighty power –  
The moon and stars shining bright,  
And the beauty of each flower.  
The majestic mountains and canyons,  
Lovely birds and eagles that fly;  
They display such beauty and splendor,  
Until it seems they are touching the sky.  
God's creation has displayed His glory,  
To bring gladness, comfort, and love.  
God grants redemption through Jesus;  
Just receive Him to live up above.

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## SOME SILLY SAYINGS

Submitted by Almeta Morris

1. Young enough to know I can, old enough to know I shouldn't, stupid enough to do it anyway.
2. Does running late count as exercise?
3. Why do Americans choose from just two people for president and fifty for Miss America?
4. I started the day with a big box of patience. The box is now on empty.

5. I meant to behave, but there were too many other options!

6. Retirement - the pay is poor, but the hours are great.

7. You are about to exceed the limits of my medication.

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## A PRAYER FOR STRENGTH

Our Father,  
Sometimes the cares of the day  
seem to multiply, while the  
blessings fade so quickly.  
Our bodies grow tired  
and our minds even more tired.  
Jesus, help us.  
Give us the strength You've promised  
in Your Word.  
Give us the power  
to take the next step.  
Give us Your grace...  
For we know that in our weaknesses  
Your strength is revealed.  
May we receive it today.  
Amen

From What Lies Ahead, c 2019

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May God give us  
peace in our sorrow,  
consolation in our grief,  
and strength to accept  
His Will in all things.  
Amen

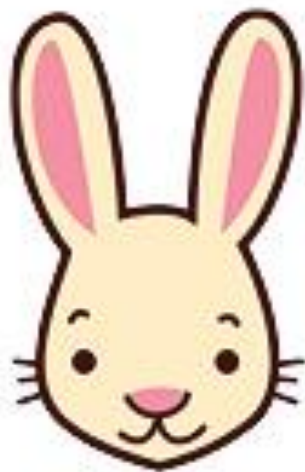
From Circle of Love, 2019

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Easter Day

## Word Hunt

**DIRECTIONS:**  
Find and circle the  
vocabulary words  
in the grid. Look  
for them in all  
directions including  
backwards and  
diagonally.



BASKET

BUNNY

CANDY

CARROT

CHICKS

CHOCOLATE

DAFFODIL

DECORATE

EASTER

EGGS

FLOWER

HUNT

JELLYBEANS

PARADE

SPRING

SUNDAY

